AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parentheses, underlined text indicating insertions, and strikethrough and/or double brackets indicating deletions.

Listing of the Claims

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image recording method for causing an ink to adhere on a recording medium, which is provided with at least one ink-receiving layer on a base material, to form an image, characterized in that said ink is an inkjet recording ink composed of a high-molecular dispersant formed of a block copolymer comprising at least one hydrophobic block and at least one hydrophilic block, a water-insoluble colorant, a water-soluble organic solvent and water, wherein said water-insoluble colorant is at least one of an oil-soluble dye ~~and/~~or a vat dye; and said ink-receiving layer comprises fine inorganic particles and at least one of a water-soluble resin ~~and/~~or water-dispersible resin, and a surface pH of said ink-receiving layer is controlled within a range of from 3.0 to 6.5,

wherein said fine inorganic particles are made of at least one selected from the group consisting of aluminum hydrate of the boehmite structure and aluminum hydrate of the pseudo-boehmite structure each of which has an average particle size of from 100 to 300 nm.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An image recording method according to claim 1, wherein said ink-receiving layer further comprises cationic fine organic particles and a cationic polymer.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An image recording method according to claim 2, wherein a content of said cationic fine organic particles in said ink-receiving layer is from 0.1 to 25 wt.% based on a dry weight of said ink-receiving layer.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An image recording method according to claim 2, wherein a weight average molecular weight of said cationic fine organic particles is from 100,000 to 1,000,000.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image recording method according to claim 2, wherein said cationic fine organic particles have a glass transition temperature of from 60 to 110°C.~~110°C.~~

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An image recording method according to claim 2, wherein a weight average molecular weight of said cationic polymer is from 5,000 to 200,000.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image recording method according to claim 2, wherein said cationic polymer is used in a proportion of from ~~35~~ 0.05 to 5 wt.% based on said fine inorganic particles.

8. (CANCELLED)

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An image recording method according to claim 1, wherein said ink-receiving layer further comprises a water-soluble multivalent metal salt.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An image recording method according to claim 9, wherein said water-soluble multivalent metal salt is used in a proportion of from 0.1 to 10 wt.% based on said fine inorganic particles.

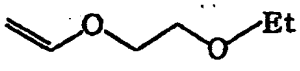
11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An image recording method according to claim 1, wherein said hydrophilic block is a polymer of a vinyl ether having at least one carboxyl group.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An image recording method according to claim 1, wherein said high-molecular dispersant is a block copolymer obtained by polymerizing vinyl ethers as monomers, and has pH stimulation responsibility such that high molecular chains of said block copolymer can undergo association when a pH of said ink is lowered.

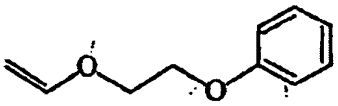
13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image recording method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said monomers which make up said block copolymer is at least one monomer selected from vinyl ethers represented by the following formulas (I-a) to (~~I-0~~I-o):

(I – a)

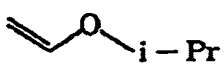
(I – b)



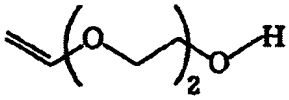
(I – c)



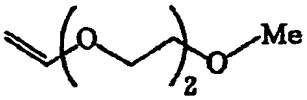
(I – d)



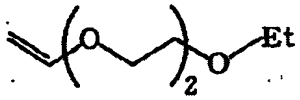
(I – e)



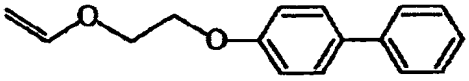
(I – f)



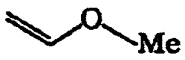
(I – g)



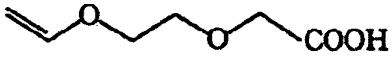
(I – h)



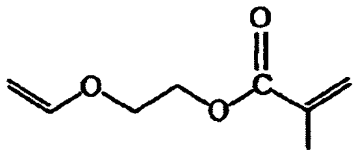
(I – i)



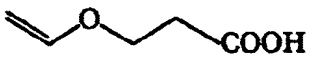
(I – j)



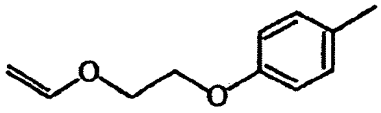
(I – k)



(I – l)



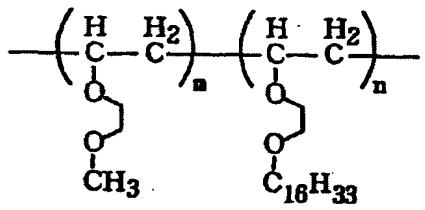
(I – m)



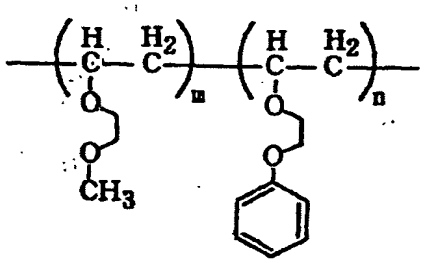
(I – n)

(I – o)

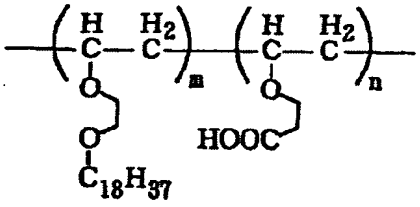
14. (NEW) An image recording method according to claim 1, wherein said block copolymer is at least one block copolymer selected from the block copolymers represented by the following formulas (II-a) to (II-e):



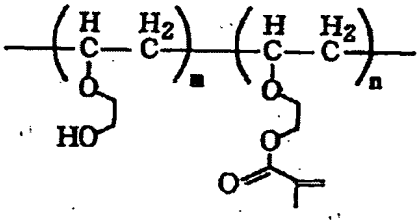
(II – a)



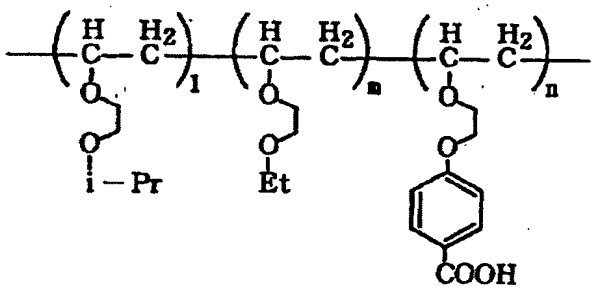
(II – b)



(II – c)



(II – d)



(II – e)

wherein m, n and l each independently denotes a value of from 1 to 10,000.

15. (NEW) An image recording method according to claim 1, wherein a number average molecular weight of said block copolymer is from 500 to 20,000,000.